

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AGR-05 IGA-02

SS-15 AID-05 H-02 SCA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W

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O R 122300Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2310

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USMISSION GENEVA

DEA HDQS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 0365

LA PAZ FOR AMB. VANCE; ARA FOR DEP. SECT. LUERS;

S/NM FOR ERNST; DEA FOR EOI-CUSACK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX, OREP

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT ON TWIN, HIGH-LEVEL
NARCOTICS COMMISSIONS

REF: (A) STATE 6138, (B) MEXICO 233, (C) MEXICO 305

1. SUMMARY: IN REF (B) WE REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD SCHEDULED A JOINT, HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO DISCUSS HIS PROPOSAL FOR PARALLEL MIXED COMMISSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM. THE MEETING WAS HELD JANUARY 10, AS PLANNED. THE USG SIDE RESPONDED ALONG LINES OF REF (A), EXPRESSING GREAT INTEREST IN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS. IT WAS AGREED THAT FORMAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, BUILDING ON EXISTING STRUCTURES IN EACH COUNTRY, AND THAT AN EXECUTIVE
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COMMITTEE OF EACH NATIONAL COMMISSION MIGHT MEET TO

FORM A "JOINT WORKING GROUP." CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND GILMAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING (TEXT OF THEIR STATEMENT TRANSMITTED REF (C), AT WHICH GOM SPOKESMAN CLEARLY INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMPLETE AGREEMENT. THE EMPHASIS WAS ON A "NEW INITIATIVE" TO CREATE ACTION-ORIENTED MECHANISMS PRODUCTIVE OF POSITIVE RESULTS. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 10, 1975, MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HOSTED A 6-HOUR, HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO DISCUSS HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH PARALLEL, MIXED COMMISSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM IN BOTH COUNTRIES. ATTENDING ON THE U.S. SIDE WERE: CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND GILMAN AND THEIR AIDES, MESSRS. DULSKIE AND FOX; DR. ROBERT DUPONT AND HIS ASSISTANT RICHARD BUCHER; AMBASSADOR JOVA, DCM THOMPSON, EDWARD HEATH AND HUMBERTO MORENO OF DEA; AND EMBOFFS CRIGLER AND ALBERTI. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT, THE MEXICAN REPRESENTATION INCLUDED, INTER ALIA: THE FOREIGN SECRETARY; THE SECRETARY AND UNDERSECRETARY OF EDUCATION; THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH; THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR; THE CHIEF OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF AND THE ADJUTANT GENERAL; THE UNDERSECRETARY OF GOVERNACION; THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MEXICAN CENTER FOR DRUG DEPENDENCY RESEARCH (CEMEF) AND HIS DEPUTY; THREE FEDERAL DEPUTIES FROM THE MEXICAN CONGRESS; THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS; AND THE OWNER OF THE LARGEST RADIO AND TV NETWORK IN MEXICO.

3. AFTER EXTENSIVE EXPOSITIONS BY THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CEMEF DIRECTOR AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS BY CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AGAIN STATED HIS DESIRE FOR A HIGH-LEVEL, MULTI-FACETED NARCOTICS COMMISSION IN MEXICO. HE HARKENED BACK TO HIS DESIRE (REPORTED IN REF (B) THAT HIS COMMISSION SHOULD AUGMENT THE GOM'S ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS BY PROVIDING A HIGH-PROFILE VEHICLE FOR PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION TO HEIGHTEN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTIONING HIS SPECIAL CONCERN WITH SCHOOL-AGE DRUG ABUSE, HE SAID THE COMMISSION SHOULD INCLUDE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER EDUCATORS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MEDIA WHO COULD BE HELPFUL IN PROVIDING SPECIAL COVERAGE DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. HE URGED THAT A SIMILAR, "TWIN" COMMISSION MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED IN THE U.S. HE ENVISIONED THAT EACH NATINAL COMMISSION WOULD HAVE A SMALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND THAT THESE TWO

COMMITTEES WOULD BE IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT, MEETING TOGETHER AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH MUTUAL PROBLEMS. AMBASSADOR JOVA ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT THE USG IS VERY INTERESTED AND INTENDS TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO HIS SUGGESTION. AMBASSADOR JOVA NOTED THAT THERE ALREADY EXISTED A MULTI-AGENCY ORGAN TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS (THE CCINC), AND THAT THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION MIGHT BE A SOMEWHAT BROADENED FORM OF THIS STRUCTURE. HE ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR VANCE WOULD BE COMING TO MEXICO IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE INITIATIVES FURTHER WITH THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE CONGRESSMEN SAID THEY WERE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AND HOPED TO SEE IT IMPLEMENTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. BUT, THEY STATED, THEY WERE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT THE FORMATION OF NEW MECHANISMS, WITH THEIR ACCENT ON PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION, MIGHT TEND TO DISTRACT ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE URGENT TASKS OF POPPY ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION. THE PRESIDENT ASSURED THEM THAT POPPY ERADICATION AND NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORTS WOULD GO FORWARD URGENTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CRITICAL. THE NEW APPROACH WILL SIMPLY AUGMENT AND ENHANCE EXISTING PROGRAMS.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AGR-05 IGA-02

SS-15 AID-05 H-02 SCA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W

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O R 122330Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2311

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USMISSION GENEVA

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LA PAZ FOR AMB. VANCE; ARA FOR DEPT. SECTM LUERS;

S/NM FOR ERNST; DEA FOR EOI-CUSACK

4. DR. DUPONT GAVE A VERY HELPFUL EXPOSITION OF THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN THE U.S., AND CALLED FOR MEXICAN LEADERSHIP IN THE U.N. TO ALERT ALL NATIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. HE RECOUNTED HIS ALARM AT THE GROWTH OF THE PROBLEM IN THE CULIACAN AREA, WHERE ON HIS RECENT VISIT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE "NARCOTICS INDUSTRY" WAS NOW ALMOST MORE IMPORTANT ECONOMICALLY THAN WAS THE VERY RICH LEGITIMATE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY OF THE REGION. THE CONGRESSMEN REMINDED PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OF HIS PROPOSAL TO GIVE THEM LETTERS FOR PRESIDENT FORD AND THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS (REF BL. THE PRESIDENT ASSURED THEM THAT THE LETTERS WOULD BE PREPARED AND PROVIDED TO AMBASSADOR JOVA FOR FORWARDING AS THEY HAD SUGGESTED.

5. THE CONGRESSMEN READ A STATEMENT WHICH THEY SAID
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THEY HOPED TO RELEASE TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE MEETING. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AGREED, SUGGESTING THAT A SMALLER GROUP ADJOURN TO ANOTHER ROOM TO ADJUST THE LANGUAGE SOMEWHAT SO THAT IT WOULD REFLECT FAITHFULLY HIS POSITION AND SO THAT THERE WOULD BE COMPLETE AGREEMENT, ENABLING THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.

6. DURING THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, THE CONGRESSMEN WERE DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD NOT PROPOSED A SINGLE, JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMISSION AS THEY HAD SUPPOSED. THERE MUST BE, ECHEVERRIA SAID, TWO SEPARATE "TWIN" COMMISSIONS. AMBASSADOR JOVA SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO COMMISSIONS MIGHT ESTABLISH A SMALL, JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH MIGHT MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY. THE AMBASSADOR THEN DESCRIBED THE SUBSTANCE OF REF (A), IN WHICH "PARALLEL U.S. AND MEXICAN COMMISSIONS" WERE SPECIFIED. THE PRESIDENT AGREED THAT THIS STATE DEPARTMENT MESSAGE DID ACCURATELY REFLECT HIS IDEAS. HE EXPLAINED THAT A JOINT COMMISSION WITH A JOINT OPERATIONAL COMMAND WOULD NEVER WORK, SINCE NEITHER THE MEXICAN ARMY NOR THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD ACCEPT ORDERS OR OTHER INTERVENTIONS BY NON-MEXICAN OFFICIALS. NEITHER, HE WAS SURE, WOULD USG AGENCIES ACCEPT SIMILAR INTERVENTION FROM THE GOM.

THEREFORE, HE PREFERRED TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE, BUT PARALLEL, COMMISSIONS, EACH TO OVERSEE THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN ITS OWN COUNTRY, WITH AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET JOINTLY AS NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH COMMON PROBLEMS AND TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE COORDINATION. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THEN SUGGESTED COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD NOT SPECIFY THE EXACT FORM OF THE JOINT ORGANIZATION, BUT WOULD CALL IT "AN AGREED MECHANISM, INCLUDING A JOINT WORKING GROUP THAT WOULD ALSO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS..." (SEE REF C). THIS LANGUAGE WAS AGREED UPON AND A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD TO ANNOUNCE THE EVENING'S WORK.

7. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS THE KEY IDEAS ON BOTH SIDES WERE THAT THESE INITIATIVES WERE TO MARK SOMETHING REALLY NEW, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE "TWIN" NATIONAL COMMISSIONS (AND THE PROPOSED JOINT WORKING GROUP) WERE TO BE ACTION-ORIENTED BODIES IN WHICH THE EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON "RESULTS, NOT RHETORIC." THE ORGANIZATIONS SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA (HE SAID THE MEXICAN COMMISSION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FORTHWITH) ARE, WE REPEAT, SEEN BY HIM MOST IMPORTANTLY AS VEHICLES FOR GENERATING HIGH-LEVEL PUBLICITY AND FOR HEIGHTENING THE AWARENESS OF BOTH COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM.

8. COMMENTS AND ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL.
JOVA

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